

FAQs: Election Day Officials/Special Topics

Q: Just to clarify, all mail in has to provide proof of residency not just 1st time voters within the open period.

A: Only first-time Wisconsin voters by mail during open registration must provide proof of residence to register to vote.

Q: Can a poll worker also be an observer?

A: Do you mean an election worker who is not working at the polls that day? Yes.

Q: No I'm talking about an election worker who is working at the polls on the day of the election.

A: He or she is appointed and is working as an election inspector, can't do both.

Q: We don't have room to meet the 6 to 12 foot requirement for Observers. What do we do?

A: Do what you can, but your observers are allowed by law to be there, so you may need to rethink your polling place configuration and/or location.

Q: How do we know if a person has or has not been in our municipality for 28 days? During a previous webinar we were told it is not up to us determine if a voter has met the residency requirements.

A: The voter is certifying that they have resided in the municipality when they sign the GAB-131.

Q: What if a voter needs assistance but do not ask? We have experienced voters just assisting without asking.

A: If it looks like someone is going into the booth with them tell them they can't be accompanied by another person. The voter will need to explain their presence.

Q: If voter requests assistance from an election inspector is it required that both a Democrat and Republican must assist?

A: No.

Q: For Presidential Only Ballots, these people can vote up to 5:00 p.m. the day before the election?

A: Yes, but they can also vote Presidential Only on Election Day at the polls.

Q: Who are you asking if anyone has an objection to the issuance of the ballot for a curbside voter?

A: The polling place at large.

Q: If observers are not allowed to electioneer while observing, what would stop them if they are allowed to text?

A: You don't know what they are doing, but if the texting is not causing a distraction it is allowed.

Q: What about an overseas voter that has no intent to return...can they vote if they lived in the municipality at some time and were registered in that municipality?

A: Yes, that type of voter is a permanent overseas voter and may vote in federal elections.

Q: Is October 16th the first day we can mail absentee ballots?

A: Ballots may be mailed as soon as they are available.

Q: How do you record votes in SVRS for Pres. Only Ballot electors if they are not registered?

A: Voters are added to SVRS using the Add Federal Voter quick task using a status of Active-Presidential Only Ballot. Directions are forthcoming.

Q: Can we set up a computer in our office for voters to use to complete a voter registration application by using myvote.wi.gov? If yes, does the voter still have to show us proof of residence if they are a new WI voter?

A: Not during open registration, but they do during closed registration and on Election Day at the polls.

Q: Is it ok to allow someone to vote in person 27 days before the election if in-person voting is not to begin until October 22?

A: No, you can only vote in person starting on Oct 22, until then, they would request an absentee by mail.

Q: Is it possible to mail a ballot to a new Wisconsin resident?

A: you can mail them a ballot up to the respective absentee deadlines

Q: So the new Wisconsin resident can only vote in person October 22?

A: correct, they can request an absentee before that though, just not before the 28 day mark (because then they would qualify)

Q: Can someone with power of attorney sign the absentee certification envelope?

A: Only as an assistant or a witness.

Q: To clarify, a ballot may be sent by fax or email to a former Wisconsin resident correct?

A: No, only by mail, unless they are in the military or a permanent overseas voter.

Q: Can person come to vote absentee at the clerk's office and ask it to be done curbside?

A: Yes.

Q: For an absentee ballot request do we need to have a "wet" signature or does the signed certificate work as the application?

A: Yes, the signature on the certificate envelope satisfies the "wet" signature requirement.

Q: can I get a signature guide? Town of Vinland 6085 County Rd T, Oshkosh, WI 54904

A: Yes, I have sent your request to the accessibility team.

Q: is proof of identification required of the person assisting the elector.

A: No. Identification is required of an agent for a hospitalized elector, however.

Q: Is anything substantial being changed on the brochure or can we use the one dated October 2010? I already printed and assembled packets.

A: You can use it.

Q: Shouldn't it be noted that after polls close when our election inspectors were packing up to return to city hall that election observers cannot detain them to "take pictures of poll books".

A: Thanks for the input.

Q: Are you still planning on a webinar for the Police Departments/Sheriff Departments regarding the procedure for handling election observers who do not follow the rules and need to be removed?

A: I believe that is still being planned to do.

Q: Will the election observer segment of this webinar be up on the website for the general public to view?

A: All webinars are posted on our website for anyone to review.

Q: What about when the voter is stating their name & address out loud or the election inspector is doing so when processing absentees and the observers keep asking for it to be repeated because they didn't hear - they are too far away.

A: The election inspector can repeat the name.

Q: If staff assists a voter with an absentee ballot, staff must sign as assisting too - correct?

A: Yes.

Q: you said the observer may view the electronic document but the manual says they may NOT view it...which is it?

A: Same as procedure with hardcopy POR, if they see it, fine, but they can't ask to examine it or handle it in any way.

Q: Does the proof of residence for a hospitalized voter, when registering, have to be an original, or can it be a copy?

A: POR can be a copy.

Q: I thought the elector should always sign the poll book before receiving the ballot?

A: Yes, unless they are physically unable or receive the ballot curbside.

Q: Why couldn't members of the media sign the Observer Log, if they are there to observe, rather than be noted on the Inspectors' Statement?

A: They are not defined as observers and typically wear their press credentials.

Q: It would be helpful to use an example and walk through completing the form. This is most helpful for election inspectors.

A: Thanks for your input.

Q: Voters who move WITHIN the state, say from Madison to Ashland, less than 28 days prior to the election, are NOT able to vote a presidential only ballot, correct? They have to vote absentee with their old municipality. If they forget until Election Day, too bad?

A: Correct, if you are moving within the state, you do not qualify for a Presidential-Only ballot.

Q: Are the Presidential only ballots to be ordered and supplied by the County Clerk?

A: Yes, they are supplied by your county clerk.

Q: I received a voter registration yesterday. This person moved to our township from another town and has filled out driver's license number. She should still have to show proof of residence??

A: Is she a first-time voter by mail? If not, she does not have to send you POR during open registration to re-register with her new address. If she is a first-time voter, yes she does.

Q: I got a request for absentee ballot and I sent her an application to fill out and she is a previous registered in our township but now lives in the State of Oregon. She can vote for all right?

A: If she has intent to return to Wisconsin, yes. If she has no intent to return to Wisconsin, no. Intent is formed in the mind of the voter.

Q: We have been notified that some observers want to be at our local nursing home when we go there. Is that ok?

A: Special rule that applies to observers in nursing home; observers must come from one of the two main political parties.

Q: I understand observers can be present after the polls close, however are they allowed in the polling area before 7:00 a.m.?

A: Yes, they can be allowed into the polling place prior to 7 am.

Q: What if a traveler is "passing through" WI and wants to vote in Presidential only?

A: they have to claim residence; this doesn't apply to truck drivers for example

Q: How would you suggest we handled a situation where a parent brings in a severely (mentally) handicapped adult child - who was registered many years ago - the voter can't announce their name or address - the parent has cut out pictures of the candidates - the handicapped voter grabs the photos - waves them around - sometimes only one, sometimes more than one- but the parent says, oh, my child wanted to choose "x" and they assist by marking the ballot.

A: The parent signs as the assistor.

Q: Person who has applied for absentee ballot for the year now is a temp resident in a Nursing Home until they enough strength to return home. Can I still send and accept the absentee ballot?

A: They just need to submit their change of address to you in writing if the nursing home is in your municipality. If the nursing home is in a different municipality, you will need to contact the municipal clerk for that municipality to ask when he or she is sending Special Voting Deputies to the nursing home to conduct absentee voting and send the clerk the ballot for your voter.

Q: Received absentee ballot request from permanent overseas voter. They requested the ballot by email, how do I handle this... absentee certificate?

A: Permanent overseas electors are required to register and only receive ballots for federal offices. You will email three documents: the ballot, the certificate side of the absentee envelope (GAB-122) and uniform instructions. Attach the documents to the email you send to the voter, including your name and address so the voter knows where to mail the ballot.

Q: So the clerks need to have presidential only ballots available at the polling place and be able to 'remake' those since they won't be able to be processed by polling equipment?

A: Correct, they can hand-count them instead, but most people remake them so the equipment tape is complete

Q: The hospitalized voter has assistance as well. Do we need to write the name/address of assistant to be noted on the polling list as well?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you help us with how to figure out the 28 day requirement? Can we count Election Day?

A: Do not count Election Day in the 28 day residency requirement.

Q: Confused on provisional ballot item 1...we CAN send a ballot to someone who did not provide POR and registered through the mail? We were under the impression we could not. Is this new?

A: Provisional ballots may be issued to first-time voters by mail that did not provide POR with their application. There are only currently two situations when provisional ballots may be issued, that is one.

Q: Can the voter fax or e-mail their POR in after the polls close or does it have to be in person? I remember there was talk of one instance where it had to be in person (it might be for photo id)

A: Voters who need to provide proof of residence can do so by electronic transmission, by deliver, or in-person.

Q: We have media (TV) that routinely goes to poll sites to take wide angle shoots during election day. They are instructed not to go near the poll booths. Is that okay?

A: Yes, they should not be taking video or pictures of ballots.

Q: How are these Presidential Ballot Only votes recorded in SVRS or are they?

A: Yes, instructions are forthcoming. You will use a quick task in SVRS.

Q: How do we handle voters who have given Power of Attorney to someone else? Both at the polls and absentee voting. Some who have given POA others may not necessarily be incompetent.

A: A voter giving Power of Attorney to another person for making financial or health decisions on their behalf does not affect their ability to vote. Only a court can find someone incompetent to vote and take that right away.

Q: Are there any provisions for a voter just released from the hospital just prior or on Election Day, but because of their illness are unable to come to the polls?

A: No, they have to vote at the polls if they are no longer in the hospital, but they could vote curbside.

Q: Can you define "hospital"? What about a care facility, rehab, assisted living, etc.?

A: Definitions can be found in the Absentee Voting in Certain Care Facilities manual found on the G.A.B. website.

Q: Will the GAB-104c be updated to include the possibility for a municipal clerk to instruct election inspectors to challenge the ballot of someone he or she does not believe is the original voter requesting a replacement ballot?

A: Good point, I'll pass it along.

Q: So, not even the Clerk can take the in-person Absentee Ballot curbside?

A: Yes, they can, but need to send two people to administer curbside voting just as they do at the polls. .

Q: Does the person having moved out of state have to complete a registration 131 as well as the application for Presidential only if they are not registered?

A: Not if they move out of Wisconsin. They would register in their new state of residence.

Q: If a provisional voter calls in or comes into the clerk's office to provide the information, we do not have the original set of poll books with signatures. Do they 1) not have to sign anything, or 2) have to sign the 2nd poll book if in person?

A: They don't sign the poll book if they are providing the information after Election Day. If they come back to the polls on Election Day to provide the information, they sign the poll book.

Q: My situation relates to the last Presidential, we had a call from Georgia, who had resided in the City and voted. They were not able to vote in Georgia because they did not register timely for their residency requirement. We had already inactivated them as a voter because of returned mail. At the time, we were allowed to have them reregister under their old address with them stating they intended to return, and issue them a presidential only ballot. How does this situation fit into our current directions?

A: They would fill out a GAB-140, application for presidential ballot. A former Wisconsin resident who has moved from Wisconsin to another state within 24 months of the presidential

election and is ineligible to vote for president in his or her new residence, may receive an absentee presidential ballot from the municipal clerk of his or her former Wisconsin residence.

Q: When we remake the Federal or Presidential only ballots to run through the Eagles, do we have to indicate they are Presidential or Federal only ballot on the remade ballot, or just Remade #?

A: Remade #

Q: We had a situation where a family member took a picture of their son/daughter with their first ballot. I don't remember if it was voted or unvoted, but we asked them to stop. Should we have had them delete the picture or in a worse case scenario, taken the photo equipment?

A: Tell them it's not allowed and leave it at that.

Q: How is the Presidential Ballot ONLY entered in SVRS?

A: Instructions are forthcoming, but you will use a quick task in SVRS.

Q: Can any election inspector place the challenger under oath?

A: Yes.

Q: If Election Observers want a copy of the poll list after Election Day, do they have to submit an open records request and are they subject to the copying charge?

A: Yes to both.

Q: Our clerk moved out of our township in the beginning of August and will not relinquish her clerk position. Is she allowed to vote in our township because she has not registered in the other town but has changed her address on the county website?

A: If she has intent to return to your township, and has not re-registered at her new residence, she may vote in your township.

Q: How is the Presidential Ballot Only counted? Is the ballot remade or just counted by hand?

A: Either.

Q: Is News Media the same as Observers? News Media takes pictures of voters in the polling place?

A: Records the visit on the GAB-104, may use camera or video unless an objection is raised. May not be used to record or video tape how someone voted.

Q: The last day to mail a Presidential only ballot to a former WI resident is Thursday, Nov. 1, correct?

A: the last day to get a request by mail is Nov 1; you can send ballots after that

Q: Why can't a voter vote in the clerk's office before Oct. 22 if you can mail it to them before that date? What is the difference?

A: It's state law.

Q: When does a person assisting a voter certify on the ballot - before the voter & assister proceed to the voting booth or after they have actually voted the ballot - therefore, election officials do not really know if the assister completed this step

A: After the ballot has been voted.

Q: Can voters refuse for observers to see their electronic device showing their POR?

A: The voter is interacting with the election inspector, the inspector verifies the POR.

Q: Can voter say observer can't look at their device with POR showing

A: There should be no interaction between voters and observers. Observers can't ask to examine the device, but may see the POR during the act of registration. It's no different than election officials handling hardcopy documents of POR.

Q: To clarify, if someone walks in the Clerk's office today and wants to register to vote and has no proof of residence, that's ok? How do I record that in SVRS? I'm confused! I thought we always need POR except if they are registering by mail and are already a WI registered voter?

A: During open registration, voters are not required to provide proof of residence to register to vote in the clerk's office. There is an application source in SVRS that reflects this. You do not check "POR Required" in SVRS, so this notation will not appear next to the voter's name on your poll list.

Q: Do the Election Inspectors actually HAVE to announce that an elector is unable to enter the polling place as a result of disability? I have heard several times that they are not comfortable stating anything about a disability and feel that it is confidential.

A: Yes, it's state law.

Q: Are there any requirements for those who wish to observe SVDs at nursing homes?

A: More information: <http://gab.wi.gov/publications/manuals/nursing-home-absentee>

Q: Could you please eventually add a note next to Proof of Residence, in the Official Use Only box of the PV envelope, something like "first time voters by mail"?

A: Without seeing it, wouldn't we also have to add, did not provide DL # and if photo ID comes back into play, did not provide photo ID?

Q: If someone completes a Prov. Ballot and returns on Election Day with correct info and then votes a regular ballot, what is the number of Provisional voters we would record, one or none since they returned and received a regular voter number?

A: One, since it was issued.

Q: Does someone who moved to WI and vote Pres. Only have to complete a GAB 131 for future elections?

A: Yes.

Q: Where do we get a "Presidential Only" ballot?

A: From your county clerk. He or she should give you a supply of Presidential Only ballots.